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PLAYBOY'S

WOMEN OF COLOR

PLAYBOY PRESS

Black truly is beautiful. So are tan, brown, bronze, chocolate, khaki, cinnamon and all the other hues that define the flesh tones in this special issue, *Women of Color*. We find beauty in the richness of color. Maybe it's our attraction to earth tones—their warmth, comfort and sensuous mystery. We bow to nature's deft hand at giving variety and subtlety in all the darker hues while straining to give the lighter tones identity and resonance. White by definition is the absence of color, while black is a combination of all the colors of the rainbow refined to one. Even though light is absorbed by anything dark, our eyes are attracted to the skin's healthy glow radiating from layers beneath. As light dances and shimmers on pigmented skin it creates a tactile curiosity, inviting a touch, a stroke, a moment to linger. We're anxious to explore and feel the color, as if there is a tangible and perceptible difference—knowing there is none. Regardless, we are excited by the darkness, the depth and the definition. Over the past several years NSS readers have been most intrigued by our models with dark hair and dark skin. Patricia Ford, Alley Baggett and Sung

Trendsetter Cover Girls: Patricia Ford, Sophronia Williams, Sung Hi Lee, Lisa Ortega.

Hi Lee have legions of fans and are successful models in large part because of their photos appearing in our publications. In the voting for our Readers' Choice Model of the Year, 12 of the top 20 were either dark-haired or dark-skinned. As the texture of America has changed so has our traditional definition of beauty. The pendulum of preference seems to be swinging ever so slightly from the Eighties benchmark of beauty, blonde hair and blue eyes, to the more exotic look—dark eyes, dark hair and dark skin. So with this new national agenda we decided a magazine in celebration was in order. The following pages present an awesome array of tones and hues—an issue with color, vibrancy and beauty. Each of these women of color emits extraordinary richness, depth and sexual energy. The July issue of *Vogue* features a black model on its cover, and in an opening editorial statement the editor in chief implores its magazine buyers to accept her for her beauty and not her race. For my money, Darth Vader had it right when he schooled young Luke Skywalker: "There's power on the dark side."

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WOMEN OF COLOR

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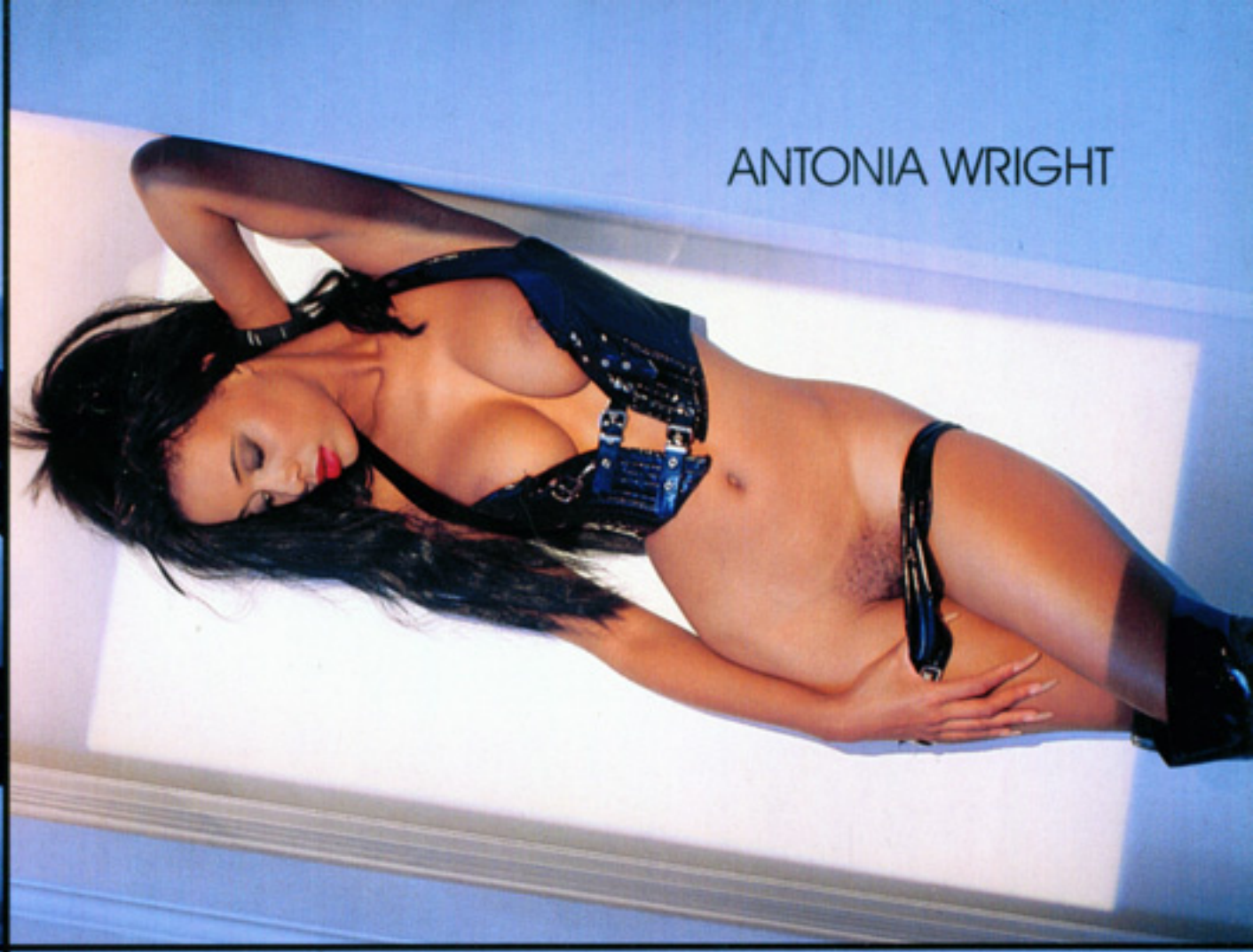
RENEÉ TENISON

ANTONIA WRIGHT



PATRICIA FORD

ALLEY BAGGETT

CHARMAINE SINCLAIR

ANGELA PENTTINEN

TRICIA CHAMBERS

LA TOYA JACKSON

KARIN TAYLOR

PORCHIA DALLAS

ALA MASTERS

JENNY WOOD

SOPHRONIA WILLIAMS

ANTONIA WRIGHT

NICOLE BENOIT

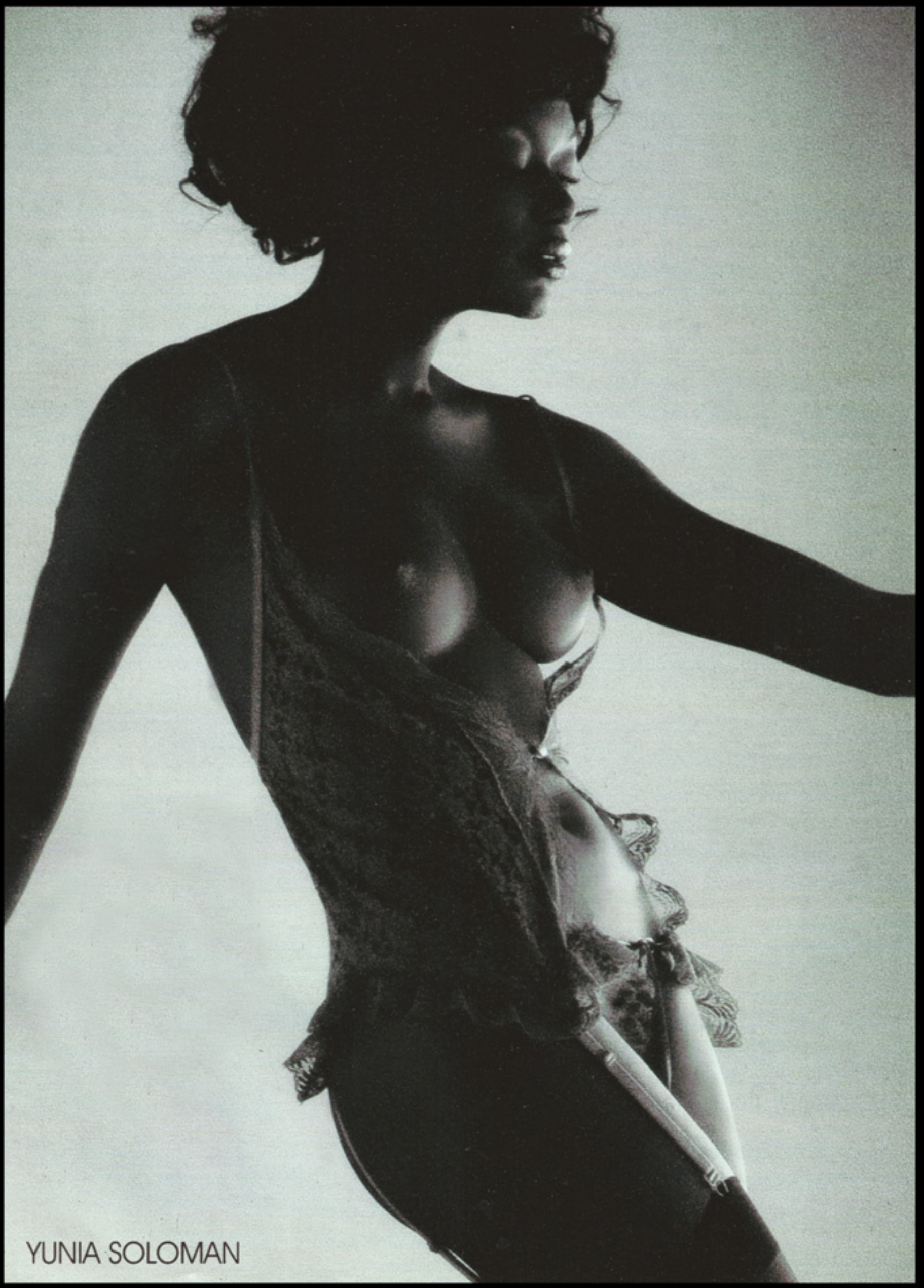
TONY KEI

MARIA CHECA

CRISTY THOM

STEPHANIE ADAMS

GABBRIELLA GILLITLIE



YUNIA SOLOMAN

SUNG HI LEE

EARTHA KITT

SIAN ALLEN

DEDE ROBINSON
CASSANDRA MILEY

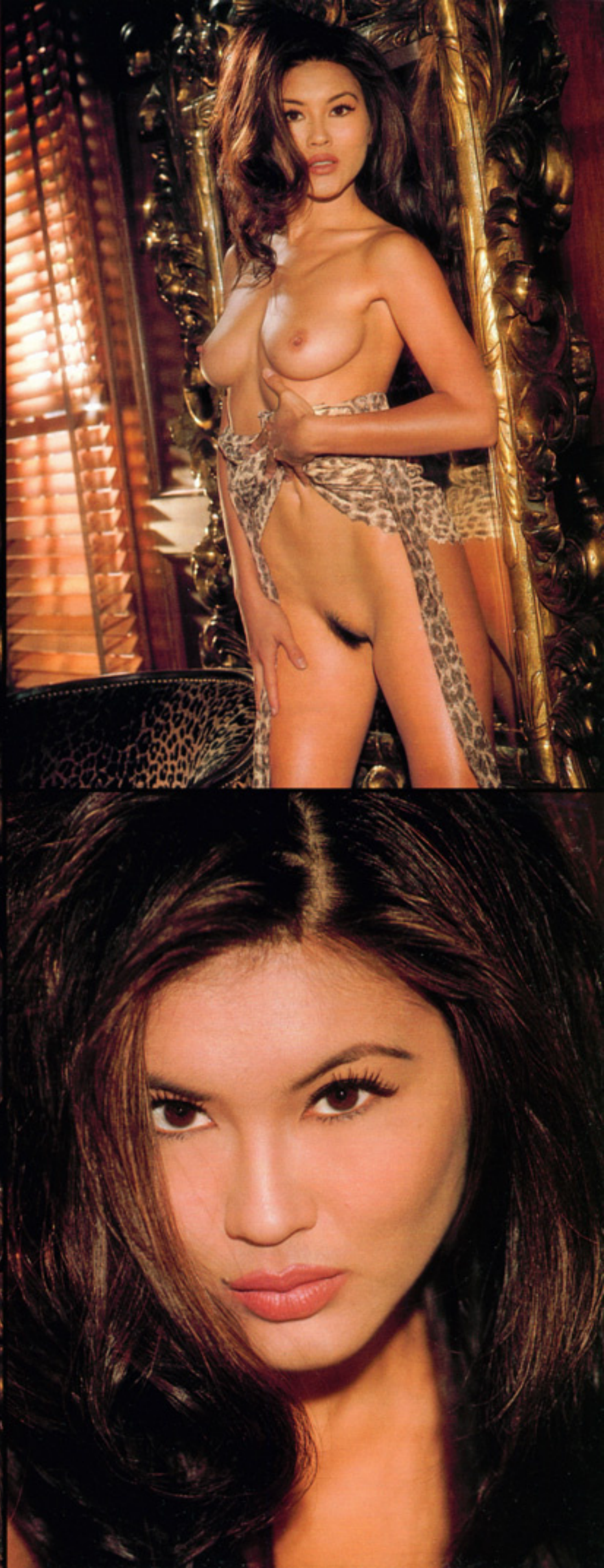
LINDA LIU

YUNIA SOLOMAN

CHERILYN SHEA

PORCHIA DALLAS

SHAYNA LEE



SHIRLEY GRIFFETH

CHARMAINE SINCLAIR

LISA ORTEGA

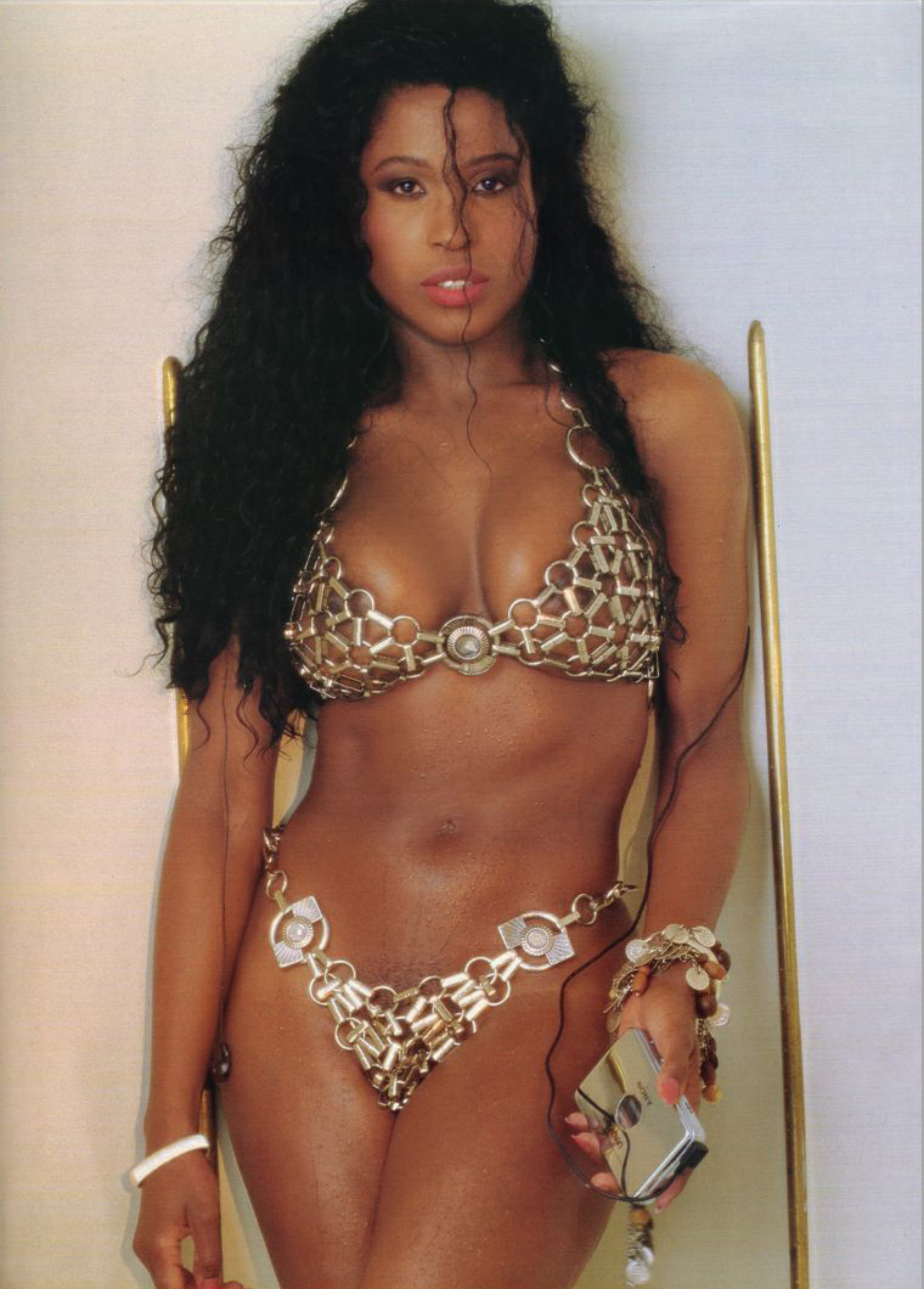
SHÁNN JOHNSON

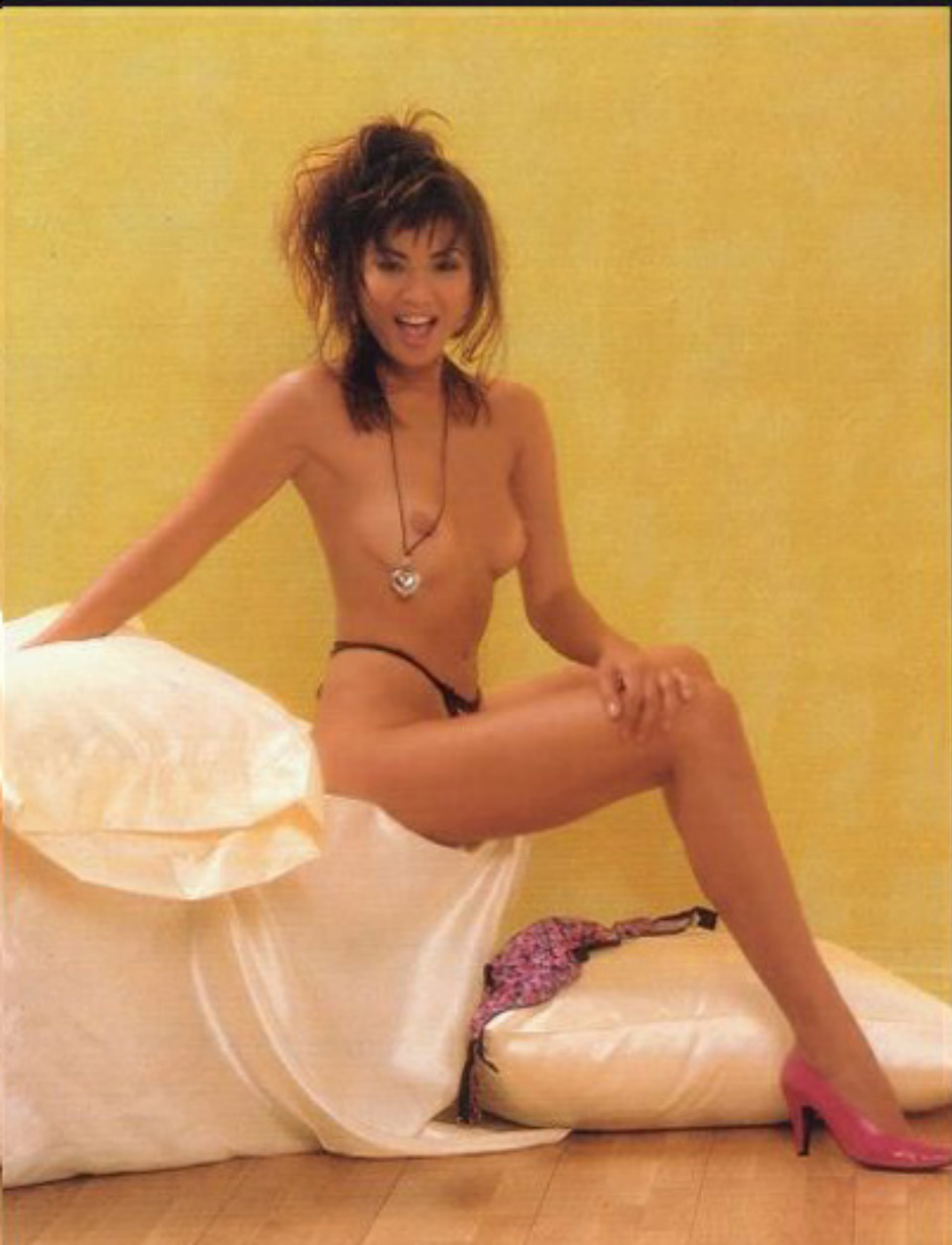
ANGELA ARDIS

MONIQUE JORDAN

LORRAINE OLIVIA

JENNY WRAY





PIA REYES

RENA MARIE

DELI GOLDSON

theBAREfacts

RENEÉ TENISON Miss November '89 and 1990's PMOY is the product of an African-American father and a white mother. "I'm a mix, a mulatto. I don't think of myself as black or white." The idea of posing for PLAYBOY was set early. "The very first time I saw the magazine, I thought, if I ever had a chance like that, I'd do it in a heartbeat." *Francis Giacobetti, 3, 4, 5.*

ANTONIA WRIGHT In much demand on the modeling circuit, Antonia unwinds in the gym, in the pool or with a cappuccino. *Byron Newman, 6, 7, 32-33.*

PATRICIA FORD Part Portuguese, part Irish, part Chinese and a whole lot Hawaiian, Patricia was born and still lives in our 50th state. Her middle name, Pualani, means heavenly flower. In whatever language, the description couldn't have been more apt. *Kelly Scott, 8, 9.*

ALLEY BAGGETT A first generation Spanish-American, Alley is one busy señorita: She has her own production company, Images of Alley; will host British TV's *Fitness Beach* in the fall; was shot for the '98 calendar *Models of South Beach* and is being considered to host the English version of MTV. Write to her at alleybaggett@why.net. *Edward Alfaro, 10, 11.*

CHARMAINE SINCLAIR A favorite "Byron girl" is back again. *Byron Newman, 12, 13, 70-71.*

ANGELA PENTTINEN "I was tired of being so sweet and nice all the time, so I got a rose tattoo and wear a silver toe ring. It makes me feel like I'm bursting out." *Gen Nishino, 14, 15.*

TRICIA CHAMBERS A native New Yorker, Tricia juggles her modeling career with interests in sports, aerobics, reading and the theater. *Steve Ragland, 16, 17.*

LA TOYA JACKSON Declaring independence from her famous family, La Toya appeared in PLAYBOY in March '89, again in November '91 and finally in the December '92 *Nudes* NSS. We offer a reprise of those provocative images here. *Stephen Wayda*, 18, 19.

KARIN TAYLOR As a kid, Miss June '96 was "painfully shy, very girlish, strong-willed and the best doll mother there ever was." *Michael Bisco, 20, 21, 22-23.*

PORCHIA DALLAS If she could, Porchia would love to romp "on a deserted island with someone special, eat fruit, dive for fish and run around naked." *Byron Newman, 24, 25, 64-65.*

ALA MASTERS Active and funloving, Ala spends time off from shooting assignments by Rollerblading, shopping and hanging with friends. *David Rams, 26, 27.*

JENNY WOOD Another "Byron girl," Jenny lives and works in London. She enjoys taking long walks, snuggling by a blazing fire and reading mysteries. *Byron Newman, 28, 29.*

SOPHRONIA WILLIAMS This University of Texas advertising major made her NSS debut appearance in April '97's *College Girls*. *Ric Moore, 30, 31.*

NICOLE BENOIT Aside from giving into a tendency to procrastinate, Nicole says she has her act pretty much together. She considers herself "sensual, passionate, kind, forgiving, focused, determined and driven." Vital stats: 5'6", 110 pounds, 36-24-34. *David Mecey, 34, 35.*

TONY KEI With a diploma from USC under her belt, Tony is content to see how far her modeling career will take her before she settles into a nine-to-five routine. *Thomas Hooper, 36, 37.*

MARIA CHECA A Colombian by birth, a Floridian by choice, Miss August '94 likes to dance, travel, paint and have fun. Her self-description is succinct: "Small, sexy, female." *Mizuno, 38-39.*

CRISTY THOM February '91's Playmate knows her mind in men. "The kind I'm attracted to are extremely intelligent and very masculine—smart, tough guys." *Mizuno, 40, 41.*

STEPHANIE ADAMS Her genetic package includes a mixture of white, Cherokee and African-American blood, and the most famous branch of her family tree stretches back to President John Adams. Miss November '92 says she isn't that much different now than when she was a kid— "naughty, playful, creative—and a little crazy." *Gen Nishino, 42, 43, 44-45.*

GABBRIELLA GILLITLIE Besides the famous Philly steak sandwich, we can be grateful to Philadelphia for producing Gabbriella, making her third NSS appearance. *Phillip Vullo, 46, 47.*

YUNIA SOLOMAN "When I was growing up, I loved watching the wild animals." No, she doesn't mean the fraternity boys on spring break. Yunia was born in Kenya. Today her life and modeling career are centered in London. *Byron Newman, 48, 49, 60-61.*

SUNG HI LEE "People's view of Asian women is changing. It's much nicer to hear 'She's pretty' than 'She's pretty—for an Asian girl.'" *Michael Bisco, 50, 51.*

EARTHA KITT The first in her family to attend college, Eartha is also striving to break new familial ground by hitting showbiz pay dirt. *Jim Hancock, 52-53.*

SIAN ALLEN Based in London, Sian models throughout Europe. Her last NSS appearance was in the November/December '95 BOL. *Byron Newman, 54, 55.*

CASSANDRA MILEY She and Dede Robinson were Kennesaw State College classmates and were featured together in April '96's *College Girls* NSS. *David Rams, 56, 57.*

DEDE ROBINSON An African, Irish, Cherokee and Greek ancestral mix, Dede hauled down more than her share of academic honors. *David Rams, 56, 57.*

LINDA LIU Born in Hong Kong, raised in the Big Apple, Linda captured her adopted city's Miss Chinese title, then popped up in Howard Stern's *Private Parts*. *Gen Nishino, 58, 59.*

CHERILYN SHEA Even though this blend of Chinese and Irish parentage has broken the 30 barrier, she's still regularly carded. "Whenever I try to buy a drink, bartenders think I'm only 18. It's hilarious." Vital stats: 5′7″, 110 pounds, 34-24-34. *Mizuno, 62, 63.*

SHAYNA LEE This talented musician is turned on by soft voices, candlelit dinners and, of course, beautiful music. Turnoffs? Bad skin and rough, dirty hands. *Mizuno, 66, 67.*

SHIRLEY GRIFFETH She has a penchant for musicians, actors and singers, loves waking up to sex and craves attention. The simplest way to win her heart? "Make me laugh." *Phillip Vullo, 68, 69.*

LISA ORTEGA What's the most embarrassing thing in her purse? "A condom. But that's not really embarrassing—it's smart!" Vital stats: 5′8″, 125 pounds, 34-25-35. *Michael Bisco, 72-73.*

SHÁNN JOHNSON We last featured Shánn's formidable frame in our *Hardbodies* issue. Her acting career is on track and she's busy adding TV and screen credits that already include appearances in *Fresh Prince*, *House Party III*, *The Player* and *Red Shoe Diaries*. *Mizuno, 74, 75.*

ANGELA ARDIS "After a few hundred people told me I had a beautiful body—'Go for it'—I headed for PLAYBOY." She's turned on by ice, great-smelling guys and sexy novels. Overly persistent men, whiners and bad smells are turnoffs. *Jim Hancock, 76, 77.*

MONIQUE JORDAN She makes her NSS debut in this issue. *Byron Newman, 78, 79.*

LORRAINE OLIVIA Miss November '90 has a passion for the Chicago Cubs, tennis and racquetball. Vital stats: 5′6″, 112 pounds, 34-24-32. *Arny Freytag, 80, 81.*

JENNY WRAY A tropical island with white sandy beaches, all the fruit she could eat and a "special someone" is how Jenny would like to escape the London fog. *Byron Newman, 82, 83.*

PIA REYES "I'm an ethnic jumble—part Filipino, Spanish, Portuguese and Chinese." Her fantasy? "I want to make love in a gravity-free space shuttle." *Kevin Stapleton, 84, 85; Stephen Wayda, 86-87.*

RENA MARIE Strong, secure, positive, spiritual, intelligent, funny men get first dibs for dates. She won't eat garlic, she says, but she'll "eat everything else. And I mean everything!" A tip: She likes being kissed behind the knees. *David Mecey, 88, 89.*

DELI GOLDSON A six-footer featured in PLAYBOY's *Height Report* (July '91), Deli is comfortable with her towering stature. "I've learned to love myself as I am." *Arny Freytag, 90-91.*

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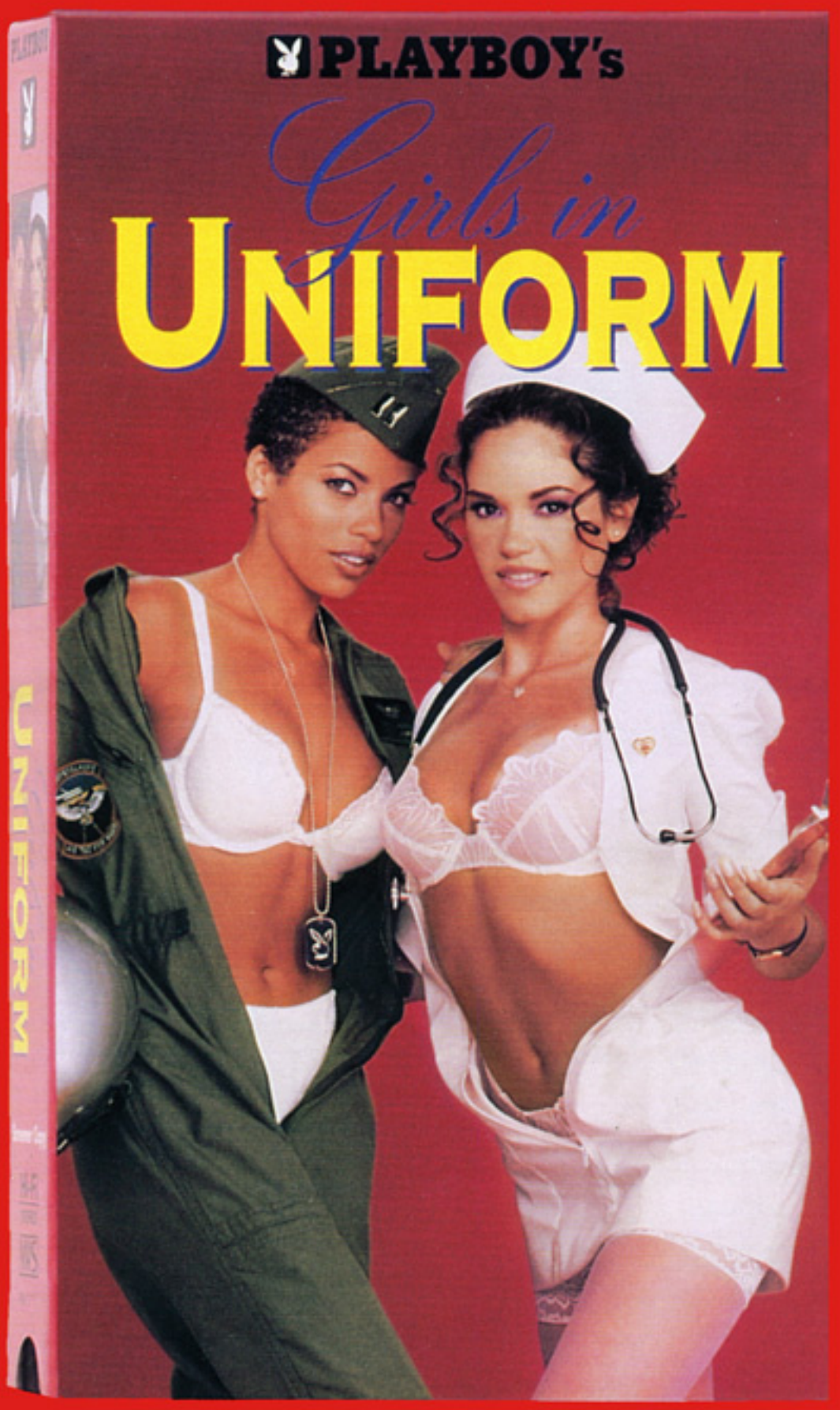

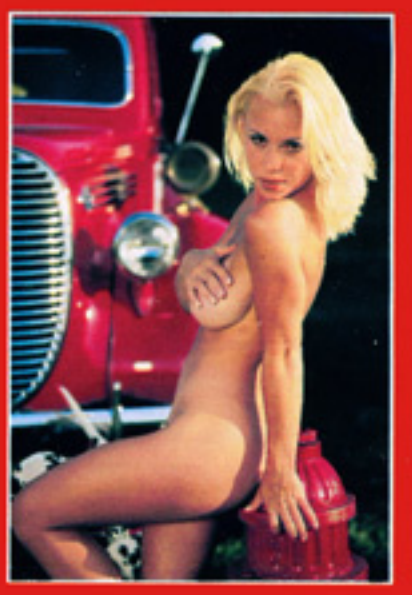

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LETTER OF THE MONTH

Please answer what might seem like an obvious question: Is Tammy Kaye Cynthia Kaye's daughter? I'm not one of those people who expect everyone with the same last name to be related, but I see quite a resemblance. I pictured Cynthia's daughter as being eight or ten or twelve years old, but 18+ is certainly possible. ...N.B.

Ed. Interesting observation, but Tammy is not Cynthia's daughter, nor are they related. Cynthia Kaye, our Atlanta-based Photo Production Coordinator, does have a daughter, Marissa, a high school sophomore, and like her mom she has the looks, the poise and the ambition to be a model. Recently the 5'10" teenager interviewed with New York modeling agencies and might soon be commuting to the Big Apple. While Marissa's ambition is to be in front of the camera, Cynthia's new goal is to be behind one, taking pictures. "I've always been called the 'Polaroid Queen' because of my great test shots of models, but now it's time to use a 35mm camera and film." After many years of working with the best glamour photographers in the country, both as a model and a producer, it's natural that Cynthia's career takes her toward total control. "The only thing holding me back is the technical aspects of photography. Once they're mastered I'm on my way. Having posed myself, I'm able to relate to the models' anxiety and insecurity and I can help create a comfortable environment that produces glamorous, sexy photos." With her unfailing creative energy, it shouldn't be long before we read: Photo by C. Kaye.

VOTE NOW! READERS' CHOICE SUPERMODELS

Don't miss your last chance to help select our 1998 Readers' Choice Supermodels. This year's votes will be accepted on our official NSS ballot only—no letters, faxes or e-mail, please. A pullout ballot is available in the July/August BOL or you may request one by writing, e-mailing or faxing our offices (see addresses at left). The top 20 vote-getters will be featured in the January/February 1998 BOL and a runoff will determine 1998's *Book of Lingerie* Model of the Year. The ballot deadline is September 1, 1997—so hurry!

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